

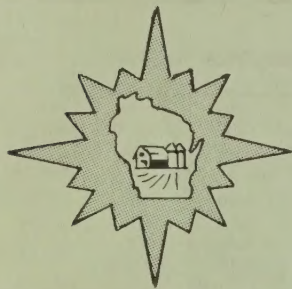
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# WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VIII, NO. 3

January 1976

## Cream of the News

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in December are expected to average \$9.90 a hundred-weight, up 41 cents from November and \$2.57 above December 1974.

Milk production of Wisconsin farms in December was 8 percent higher than a year ago, and the preliminary estimate for total 1975 milk production shows a gain of 2 percent from 1974.

Wholesale prices of dairy products continued to increase during December and were considerably above a year earlier.

Cheese production in Wisconsin and the Nation during November was up from the previous year but butter production declined.

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of December totaled less than 11 million pounds, the lowest since April 1952.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-December was up 2 percent from a month earlier due primarily to higher milk prices.

Farm numbers in Wisconsin as of January 1 were estimated at 103,000, down 1,000 from a year ago and the same rate of decline as in the previous four years.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states on January 1 were up 28 percent from the low level of a year earlier but 6 percent below two years ago.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of December were down 14 percent from the previous year as both beef and pork were lower.

According to the January 1 planting intentions survey, corn acreage in both Wisconsin and the Nation may increase 4 percent in 1976 while soybean acreage could decline.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market in December declined for the third consecutive month but were well above a year earlier.

## 1975 MILK PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1975 was 18.6 billion pounds, an increase of about 2 percent from 1974. Most of the gain came in the last five months of 1975. Better quality feed and higher feeding rates were contributing factors to the increase in milk production during the second half of 1975. Wisconsin farmers reported feeding an average of 13 pounds of grain and other concentrates per milk cow on January 1, 1976 compared with 11 pounds a year earlier.

Wisconsin's milk production for December amounted to 1,528 million pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year. Production per cow for December averaged 845 pounds, an increase of 65 pounds from December 1974. The annual output of milk per cow in 1975 averaged 1 percent more than in 1974.

Milk production in the Nation for 1975 was virtually the same as the 115.4 billion pounds produced in 1974. December's milk output was up 2 percent from a year earlier. The December milk-feed price ratio was up slightly from November and was well above December 1974. Feeding of grain and other concentrates averaged 13.2 pounds per cow on January 1 compared with 12.8 pounds a year ago.

Milk Production

Selected States	December 1974	December 1975	Jan.-Dec. 1975	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin . . . .	1,411	1,528	18,642	+ 8	+ 2
Minnesota . . . .	749	703	8,924	- 6	- 5
Iowa . . . . .	298	300	3,875	+ 1	- 2
New York . . . .	789	815	10,024	+ 3	+ 2
Pennsylvania . . .	570	573	6,997	+ 1	n. c.
California . . . .	840	869	10,785	+ 3	+ 2
Other states . . .	4,430	4,487	56,242	+ 1	n. c.
United States . .	9,087	9,275	115,489	+ 2	n. c.

## DECEMBER MILK PRICE NEAR \$10 A HUNDREDWEIGHT

Dairy farmers in Wisconsin are expected to receive an average of \$9.90 a hundredweight for all milk sold in De-

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cember. This would be 41 cents higher than in November and \$2.57 above a year earlier.

Milk prices for November averaged \$9.49 a hundredweight, a gain of 24 cents from the previous month and \$1.89 more than November 1974. The average milkfat content in November was 3.83 percent compared with 3.91 percent a year ago.

Market grade milk averaged \$9.60 a hundredweight in November, up 30 cents from October and \$1.72 higher than the previous year. Milk of manufacturing grade averaged \$9.31 a hundredweight during November, an increase of 14 cents from a month earlier and \$2.18 above November 1974. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 29 cents in November compared with 75 cents for that month in 1974.

A preliminary average of the monthly prices shows that Wisconsin farmers received \$8.20 a hundredweight for all milk sold in 1975. This was 53 cents above the 1974 average and the twelfth consecutive year that the annual milk price exceeded the previous year. Milk prices in 1975 were below 1974 until June when they began rising to reach a peak in December.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	October 1975		November price per cwt.			Dec. 1975 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1974	1975	75/74 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin . . . . .	3.81	9.25	7.60	9.49	+ 25	9.90
Minnesota . . . . .	3.73	8.81	7.17	9.12	+ 27	9.40
Iowa . . . . .	3.74	9.10	7.45	9.45	+ 27	9.65
New York . . . . .	3.69	10.15	8.66	10.35	+ 20	10.30
California . . . . .	3.69	9.30	8.70	9.80	+ 13	10.20
United States . . . . .	3.74	9.66	8.48	9.99	+ 18	10.20
Wis. utilization						
Market milk . . . . .	3.81	9.30	7.88	9.60	+ 22	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.82	9.17	7.13	9.31	+ 31	xxx
Creameries . . . . .	3.79	9.13	7.13	9.42	+ 32	xxx
Cheese factories . . . . .	3.82	9.18	7.13	9.30	+ 30	xxx
Condenseries . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.81	9.13	7.09	9.34	+ 32	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

### — PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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*This publication is free upon request to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 9160, Madison, Wisconsin 53715.*

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Nov. 1974	Oct. 1975	Nov. 1975 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses . . . . .	6.79	8.50	8.67	+ 28
Market milk . . . . .	7.07	8.54	8.77	+ 24
Manufacturing milk . . . . .	6.44	8.40	8.48	+ 32
Creameries . . . . .	6.44	8.43	8.68	+ 35
American cheese plants . . . . .	6.44	8.39	8.50	+ 32
Varied products plants . . . . .	6.37	8.39	8.58	+ 35
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . . . .	7.41	8.87	9.23	+ 25

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

### CHEESE PRODUCTION UP BUT BUTTER OUTPUT LOWER

Cheese production in the Nation during November totaled 211 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent from a year earlier. Production of American cheese in November was about the same as a year ago but Swiss was up 5 percent, Italian 4 percent, Brick and Muenster 18 percent, and all other cheese 6 percent.

Although Wisconsin dairy plants manufactured 5 percent more American cheese in November than the previous year and Minnesota increased 7 percent, these gains were offset by declines of 32 percent in Iowa and 3 percent in all other states.

The Nation's butter production for November was down 4 percent from November 1974. Wisconsin creameries showed an increase of 2 percent and California was up 16 percent, but

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Nov. 1974	Nov. 1975	Jan.-Nov. 1975	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin . . . . .	13,811	14,100	190,180	+ 2	+ 8
Minnesota . . . . .	15,359	13,800	203,225	- 10	- 4
California . . . . .	8,643	10,000	117,620	+ 16	+ 2
Other states . . . . .	29,467	26,902	381,552	- 9	+ 3
United States . . . . .	67,280	64,802	892,577	- 4	+ 2
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin . . . . .	50,155	52,500	661,400	+ 5	- 7
Minnesota . . . . .	19,741	21,155	234,001	+ 7	- 4
Iowa . . . . .	6,864	4,660	68,410	- 32	- 35
Other states . . . . .	39,876	38,665	565,178	- 3	- 16
United States . . . . .	116,636	116,980	1,528,989	n. c.	- 12
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss . . . . .	12,496	13,168	157,025	+ 5	- 3
Brick and Muenster. . . . .	5,021	5,901	69,006	+ 18	+ 5
Italian . . . . .	50,666	52,886	598,348	+ 4	+ 8
All other . . . . .	20,691	21,986	204,448	+ 6	+ 6
Total . . . . .	88,874	116,980	1,052,136	+ 32	+ 8
ALL CHEESE					
United States . . . . .	205,510	210,921	2,557,816	+ 3	- 6
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/ . . . . .	53,449	53,012	651,895	- 1	+ 2
Creamed 2/ . . . . .	66,437	65,242	816,234	- 2	+ 3
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,331	1,200	15,500	- 10	- 1
Illinois . . . . .	3,049	3,200	41,730	+ 5	+ 2
Iowa . . . . .	723	770	10,850	+ 7	+ 25
Michigan . . . . .	2,331	2,500	35,985	+ 7	+ 13
Minnesota . . . . .	2,039	1,775	26,375	- 13	n. c.
Other states . . . . .	45,328	48,348	656,235	+ 7	+ 8
United States . . . . .	54,801	57,793	785,910	+ 5	+ 8

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.



output of butter in Minnesota declined 10 percent and all other states were down 9 percent.

Cottage cheese production in the Nation during November was under a year earlier but ice cream production was higher.

### WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES CONTINUE UP IN DECEMBER

Wholesale prices of dairy products continued to increase during December. The 92-score butter price at New York for December averaged over \$1.09 a pound, up about 5 cents from November and more than 42 cents above a year earlier.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged nearly \$1.02 a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during December, up almost 2½ cents from November. Wholesale prices of cheddar cheese increased every month in 1975. The December price was 29 cents higher than the previous year.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged about \$1.25 a pound for December, a gain of 2½ cents from November and more than 26 cents above December 1974.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	December 1974	November 1975	December 1975 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	67.31¢	104.20¢	109.52¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	72.62¢	99.31¢	101.68¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/ . . . . .	98.75¢	122.50¢	125.10¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range . . . .	\$11.90-12.51	\$13.20-13.75	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound . . . . .	56.74¢	71.36¢	71.17¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

### AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Based on weekly estimates, production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation for December was above a year earlier. Nationally, output of American cheese in December could be up 4 percent but production from January through November was 12 percent under that period in 1974. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in December was higher than the previous year but output in the first 11 months of 1975 was down 7 percent from a year earlier.

According to weekly estimates for December, butter production in the Nation may be down 9 percent from the

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
November . .	64,802	- 4	+ 2	116,980	n. c.	+ 5
Jan.-Nov. . .	892,577	+ 2	+ 8	1,528,989	- 12	- 7
Weeks ending:						
Dec. 4 . .	18,410	- 9	- 12	28,720	+ 3	+ 8
Dec. 11 . .	17,180	- 10	- 2	26,450	- 1	+ 2
Dec. 18 . .	16,950	- 8	- 4	27,000	- 1	n. c.
Dec. 25 . .	16,750	- 17	- 13	30,000	+ 3	+ 5
Jan. 1 . .	23,400	- 2	+ 9	35,100	+ 15	+ 9
Total . . .	92,690	- 9	xxx	147,270	+ 4	xxx

previous year. However, churnings of butter from January through November were 2 percent more than in those months of 1974. Wisconsin's butter output for December was below a year earlier until the last week of the month. Creameries in the State produced 8 percent more butter from January through November than in that period of 1974.

### BUTTER STOCKS LOWEST SINCE APRIL 1952

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of December totaled less than 11 million pounds, the lowest since April 1952. Butter stocks were 78 percent below December 31, 1974. Government butter stocks in cold storage amounted to 5.3 million pounds, down 63 percent from a year earlier.

The Nation's cold storage stocks of cheese on December 31 were a fourth less than the previous year. Supplies of American cheese totaled 307.6 million pounds, down 27 percent from December 31, 1974. Swiss cheese stocks in cold storage at the end of December were 19 percent under a year ago while all other cheese stocks declined 14 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1973	Dec. 31, 1974	Dec. 31, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter . . . . .	46,379	49,227	10,862	- 78
Cheese, American . . . .	290,299	420,838	307,606	- 27
Cheese, Swiss . . . . .	13,393	15,130	12,316	- 19
Cheese, all other . . . .	54,116	57,987	50,019	- 14
Cheese, total . . . . .	357,808	493,955	369,941	- 25
	WISCONSIN			
Butter . . . . .	1,286	2,670	294	- 89
Cheese, American . . . .	170,482	234,708	160,511	- 32
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter . . . . .	22,381	14,493	5,299	- 63
Cheese, American . . . .	406	1,055	1,102	+ 4

\*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products  
United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1973	Nov. 30, 1974	Nov. 30, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk . . . . .	7,041	5,422	3,490	- 36
Dried skim milk . . . . .	65,138	132,377	40,727	- 69
Dried buttermilk . . . . .	4,075	4,983	1,990	- 60
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	75,241	100,971	63,911	- 37

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

### MEAT STOCKS CONTINUE LOWER

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of December were down 14 percent from a year earlier. Beef supplies in cold storage were 11 percent under December 31, 1974 while pork stocks declined 17 percent.

There were 358 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of December. This was an increase of 37½ million



pounds from the previous month but 43½ million pounds below a year ago.

Pork stocks in cold storage on December 31 totaled nearly 256 million pounds, down 13 million pounds from November and almost 51 million less than on December 31, 1974.

#### Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1973	Dec. 31, 1974	Nov. 30, 1975	Dec. 31, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen . . . . .	432,096	383,849	313,297	350,696	- 9
In cure and cured . . . . .	15,696	18,010	7,440	7,568	- 58
Total . . . . .	447,792	401,859	320,737	358,264	- 11
Pork:					
Frozen . . . . .	271,631	293,729	248,854	240,713	- 18
In cooler . . . . .	14,479	12,934	20,112	15,157	+ 17
Total . . . . .	286,110	306,663	268,966	255,870	- 17
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen . . . . .	11,566	13,548	9,754	10,696	- 21
Lamb and mutton, frozen . . . . .	15,034	13,690	11,553	11,908	- 13
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams . . . . .	53,982	52,705	45,735	42,511	- 19
Other meats . . . . .	15,209	14,726	11,614	13,004	- 12
Total all meats . . . . .	829,693	803,191	668,359	692,253	- 14

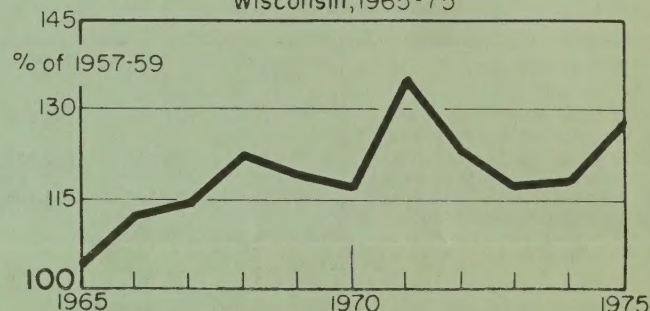
#### CROP PRODUCTION INDEX HIGHER IN 1975

The crop production index for 1975 averaged 127 percent of the 1957-59 period, up 9 points from 1974 and second to the 1971 index of 135 percent. Production in-

creased for corn, soybeans, barley, tobacco, potatoes, sweet corn, beets, cabbage, and lima beans. Crops showing a lower output than in 1974 were oats, peas, snap beans, onions, carrots, lettuce, cucumbers, mint, maple syrup, and cranberries. Hay, wheat, apples, strawberries, and cherries had comparable production to 1974.

Wisconsin farmers planted 3.5 million acres of corn in 1975, up slightly from the previous year. Good growing and harvesting weather allowed a record 2.4 million acres to be harvested for grain. The yield of corn for grain averaged 83 bushels per acre, an increase of 15 bushels from the poor 1974 yield. Production of corn for grain in 1975 totaled over 198 million bushels, a gain of 31 percent from a year earlier. Quality of corn for grain was very good due to lower moisture content and high test weights. Silage production in 1975 was up 2 percent from 1974. Although fewer acres were cut for silage, the yield of 10.5 tons per acre in 1975 was 1 ton more than the previous year.

#### CROP PRODUCTION INDEX Wisconsin, 1965-75



#### Crop Summary of Wisconsin for 1975

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975		1973	1974	1975
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain . . . . .	2,090	2,270	2,390	83.0	68.0	83.0	Bu.	173,470	154,360	198,370
Oats . . . . .	1,370	1,400	1,350	41.0	61.0	55.0	Bu.	56,170	85,400	74,250
Barley . . . . .	21	19	35	37.0	47.0	43.0	Bu.	777	893	1,505
Rye . . . . .	9	10	15	21.0	24.0	21.0	Bu.	189	240	315
Wheat (all) . . . . .	27	78	93	33.0	36.6	30.3	Bu.	890	2,853	2,820
Winter . . . . .	16	57	72	35.0	39.0	31.0	Bu.	560	2,223	2,232
Spring . . . . .	11	21	21	30.0	30.0	28.0	Bu.	330	630	588
Soybeans for beans . . . . .	241	217	191	25.0	20.0	25.5	Bu.	6,025	4,340	4,871
Potatoes (fall) . . . . .	47.0	50.0	49.5	245	280	300	Cwt.	11,515	14,000	14,850
Tobacco (all) . . . . .	10.2	9.4	11.0	1,859	1,965	1,926	Lb.	18,963	18,471	21,190
Type 54 . . . . .	4.9	4.7	5.6	1,950	2,060	2,000	Lb.	9,555	9,682	11,200
Type 55 . . . . .	5.3	4.7	5.4	1,775	1,870	1,850	Lb.	9,408	8,789	9,990
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all) . . . . .	3,950	3,950	3,970	2.69	2.68	2.67	Ton	10,622	10,600	10,602
Alfalfa and mixture . . . . .	2,970	3,000	3,020	2.90	2.90	2.85	Ton	8,613	8,700	8,607
All other . . . . .	980	950	950	2.05	2.00	2.10	Ton	2,009	1,900	1,995
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots . . . . .	4.5	4.0	3.4	411	483	429	Cwt.	1,851	1,930	1,457
Cabbage . . . . .	5.4	5.8	5.5	300	320	405	Cwt.	1,621	1,856	2,228
Lettuce . . . . .	1.1	1.1	.9	250	200	120	Cwt.	275	220	108
Mint for oil . . . . .	6.5	8.3	8.9	31	46	38	Cwt.	204	380	338
Onions, commercial . . . . .	1.4	1.3	1.2	280	280	260	Cwt.	392	364	312
For processing:										
Green lima beans . . . . .	7.4	5.3	11.2	.93	.94	1.02	Ton 1/	6.9	5.0	11.4
Peas . . . . .	123.2	129.8	133.1	.99	1.33	1.21	Ton 1/	122.0	172.7	161.2
Snap beans . . . . .	55.7	61.0	64.8	2.47	2.55	2.21	Ton	137.6	155.6	143.2
Sweet corn . . . . .	132.6	118.1	142.0	3.85	3.83	3.65	Ton	510.5	452.3	517.7
Cucumber for pickles . . . . .	10.4	11.4	10.2	4.91	3.91	4.25	Ton	51.1	44.6	43.4
Beets for canning . . . . .	6.6	8.1	7.3	9.18	10.65	12.37	Ton	60.6	86.3	90.3
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	50,000	65,000	64,000
Tart cherries . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	2.4	5.4	5.2
Cranberries . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	756	870	825
Strawberries . . . . .	1.4	1.3	1.4	27	29	28	Cwt.	38	38	39

1/Shelled.



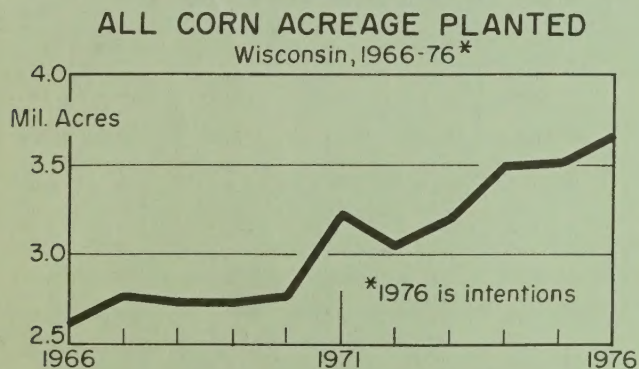
Production of soybeans in 1975 totaled almost 5 million bushels, an increase of 12 percent from a year earlier despite a 13 percent decline in planted acreage. Wisconsin farmers planted only 200,000 acres of soybeans in 1975 compared with 230,000 acres in 1974. The 1975 soybean yield of 25.5 bushels per acre was 5.5 bushels above 1974 and second to the record yield of 28 bushels per acre in 1972.

Hay production in 1975 amounted to 10.6 million tons, about equal to 1974. Although yields of alfalfa were down slightly, acreage increased 1 percent. Potato production was up 6 percent in 1975 as record high yields offset fewer acres harvested. Wisconsin's tobacco crop for 1975 increased 15 percent from 1974 as more acres were planted and harvested.

## CORN ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE

The acreage planted to the five major field crops surveyed as of January 1 may be up 2 percent in Wisconsin for 1976 due to an increase in corn. Based on the January prospective plantings survey, a total of 5,353,000 acres will be planted to corn, oats, soybeans, barley, and spring wheat in 1976. This would be 124,000 acres more than were planted to those crops in 1975.

Plantings of all corn for 1976 are expected to total a record high of 3,650,000 acres, an increase of 4 percent or 150,000 acres from last year. Wisconsin farmers intend to reduce soybean acreage to 180,000 acres in 1976, down 20,000 acres from 1975.



The January 1 intentions survey indicated that oat acreage in Wisconsin may remain at 1,470,000 acres for 1976, the same as planted in the two previous years.

Barley acreage in Wisconsin for this year may total 33,000 acres, a decline of 4,000 acres from 1975 but 13,000 acres above 1974. Seedings of spring wheat in 1976 could be 2,000 acres less than the 22,000 acres planted in both 1975

and 1974. Wisconsin farmers seeded an estimated 62,000 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1975, a decline of 16,000 acres from a year earlier.

Farmers in the Nation plan to increase the 1976 corn acreage 4 percent from what was planted in 1975. If these intentions are followed, a record 80.8 million acres of corn will be planted this year. All the major corn states except South Dakota indicated an increase in corn acreage on the January 1 planting intentions survey.

Soybean growers expect to plant nearly 51 million acres of beans in 1976. This would be about 7 percent fewer than were planted last year. All the leading soybean states are planning to reduce acreage in 1976.

Planting intentions of oats for 1976 show a decline of 1 percent from 1975. The major oat growing states indicated no change in acreage from last year except for Iowa which expects an increase of 2 percent and Texas which plans to reduce oat acreage 7 percent.

According to the January 1 planting intentions survey, barley acreage in the Nation will remain at the 9½ million acres planted in 1975. Expected decreases for Montana and Idaho are offset by increases for Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Spring wheat acreage for 1976 could total 14.8 million acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana are planning to increase spring wheat acreage while South Dakota indicates no change. The Nation's winter wheat acreage seeded in the fall of 1975 was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER IN MID-DECEMBER

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-December was up 11 points (2 percent) from a month earlier. At 601 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index was 124 points (26 percent) above the previous year and equal to the record high established in October 1975. Higher milk prices were the primary contributor to the increase in the prices received index.

The rise in milk prices has strengthened the market for milk cows whose value increased for the third consecutive month. Prices for milk cows averaged \$505.00 per head as of December 15, a gain of \$15.00 from November and \$65.00 above December 1974.

Beef cattle prices declined from November to December. Steers and heifers averaged \$39.00 a hundredweight in mid-December, down 20 cents from the previous month but \$9.20 higher than a year ago. Slaughter cows averaged \$20.40

**Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1976 Intentions**  
Compared with 1974 and 1975 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1974	1975	1976	Change from last year	1974	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Field corn	3,490	3,500	3,650	+ 4	77,787	77,902	80,822	+ 4
Oats 1/	1,470	1,470	1,470	n. c.	17,967	17,386	17,126	- 1
Soybeans 2/	230	200	180	- 10	53,507	54,577	50,921	- 7
Barley 1/	20	37	33	- 11	8,994	9,526	9,528	n. c.
Spring wheat	22	22	20	- 9	14,826	14,112	14,800	+ 5
Winter wheat 3/	61	78	62	- 21	52,354	56,163	57,227	+ 2

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Grown alone for all purposes. 3/Seeded in fall of preceding year.



a hundredweight in December, a decline of 70 cents from November but \$3.90 above December 1974.

Calves, at \$32.10 a hundredweight on December 15, were \$1.60 under a month earlier but \$1.90 more than the previous year. Hogs declined \$2.40 from November to December but at \$46.10 a hundredweight were \$8.10 above December 1974.

Sheep averaged \$7.90 a hundredweight as of mid-December, up 10 cents from November and \$2.60 higher than a year earlier. Lambs, at \$42.70 a hundredweight in December, were up \$2.50 from the previous month and \$8.60 greater than a year ago.

Eggs increased over 7 cents a dozen from November to December. The mid-December average of nearly 57 cents a dozen for eggs was more than 4 cents above a year earlier. Turkeys dropped 1 cent from November to December but at 37 cents a pound liveweight were 1 cent higher than mid-December 1974.

Corn prices averaged \$2.43 a bushel as of December 15, up 3 cents from November but 88 cents lower than a year earlier. The mid-December wheat price of \$2.96 a bushel was 12 cents less than November and well below the average of \$4.26 for December 1974.

Oats increased 2 cents from November to December but at \$1.36 a bushel was 23 cents under December 15, 1974. Soybeans averaged \$4.20 a bushel in December, down 15 cents from a month earlier and considerably below the average of \$6.91 a year ago.

Prices of baled alfalfa hay averaged \$49.50 a ton on December 15, a decline of 50 cents from the previous month but \$12.50 above a year earlier.

#### Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

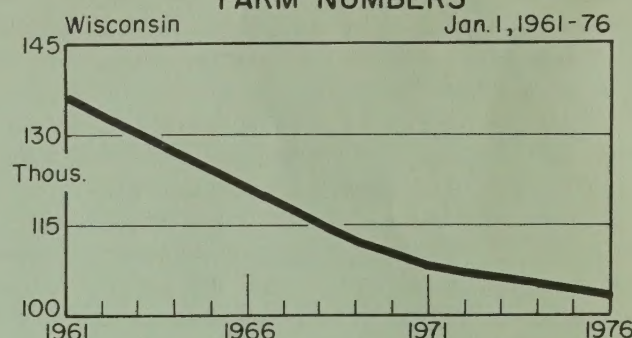
Commodity	Unit	Dec. 15, 1973	Dec. 15, 1974	Nov. 15, 1975	Dec. 15, 1975
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	615.00	440.00	490.00	505.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	34.40	29.80	39.20	39.00
Cows	Cwt.	29.30	16.50	21.10	20.40
Calves	Cwt.	51.00	30.20	33.70	32.10
Hogs	Cwt.	36.60	38.00	48.50	46.10
Sheep	Cwt.	10.00	5.30	7.80	7.90
Lambs	Cwt.	31.50	34.10	40.20	42.70
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.195	.130	.145	.130
Turkeys	Lb.	.370	.360	.380	.370
Eggs	Doz.	.610	.523	.494	.567
Corn	Bu.	2.43	3.31	2.40	2.43
Wheat	Bu.	4.66	4.26	3.08	2.96
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.59	1.34	1.36
Soybeans	Bu.	5.58	6.91	4.35	4.20
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	30.50	37.00	50.00	49.50

1/Excludes broilers.

#### FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE LOWER

The number of farms in Wisconsin as of January 1, 1967 was estimated at 103,000. This was a decline of 1,000 farms from a year earlier and the same rate of decline as in the previous four years. Farm numbers have not been decreasing as rapidly in the 1970's as they did in the 1960's when the annual drop was usually 3,000 farms. The number of farms in Wisconsin reached a peak of 200,000 in 1935 but have continued downward since then. Currently farm

#### FARM NUMBERS



numbers are the lowest since 1870 when there were also 103,000 farms in the State.

Land in farms totaled 19.4 million acres on January 1 this year, a decline of 100,000 acres from a year ago. The land in farms has also been declining at a slower rate in recent years. More than four million acres have gone out of farm land since 1942 when a high of almost 24 million acres were in farm land in Wisconsin. During the past ten years, farm land has decreased by 8 percent while the number of farms was reduced by 15 percent.

As farm numbers declined, the average size of a Wisconsin farm increased from a low of 113 acres in 1925 to a high of 188 acres by 1975. Farm size has gained an average of 13 acres in the last ten years.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms  
Wisconsin and United States, 1935-76 1/

Year	Wisconsin			United States 2/		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres
1935	200	118	23.5	6,812	155	1,054.5
1940	193	119	22.9	6,097	174	1,060.9
1945	179	132	23.6	5,859	195	1,141.6
1950	174	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202.0
1955	155	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,201.9
1960	138	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,175.6
1961	136	163	22.1	3,825	305	1,167.7
1962	133	165	22.0	3,692	314	1,159.4
1963	130	168	21.8	3,572	322	1,151.6
1964	127	170	21.6	3,457	332	1,146.1
1965	124	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,139.6
1966	121	175	21.2	3,257	348	1,131.8
1967	118	177	20.9	3,162	355	1,123.5
1968	115	179	20.6	3,071	363	1,115.2
1969	112	181	20.3	2,999	369	1,107.7
1970	110	183	20.1	2,954	373	1,102.8
1971	108	184	19.9	2,909	377	1,097.3
1972	107	185	19.8	2,870	381	1,093.0
1973	106	186	19.7	2,844	383	1,089.5
1974	105	187	19.6	2,830	384	1,087.8
1975	104	188	19.5	2,808	387	1,086.0
1976 3/	103	188	19.4	2,786	389	1,084.7

1/Including Alaska and Hawaii. 2/Data prior to 1950 are from U. S. Agricultural Census. 3/Preliminary.

#### NOVEMBER RED MEAT OUTPUT DOWN 1 PERCENT

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during November totaled 114 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year ago. Although beef production was up 7 percent from November 1974, output of pork declined 12 percent.



The November cattle slaughter of 129,000 head was 9 percent more than a year earlier. Average liveweight of cattle killed in November was 1,049 pounds, 27 pounds lighter than the previous year.

There were 259,000 hogs butchered in November, down 40,000 from a year ago. Hogs averaged 248 pounds live-weight for November, up 4 pounds from November 1974.

Calf slaughter during November numbered 33,500 head, an increase of 6,000 from a year earlier. Average liveweight of calves killed in November was 132 pounds, 4 pounds lighter than the previous year. The November sheep and lamb slaughter of 400 head was 100 less than in November 1974.

#### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

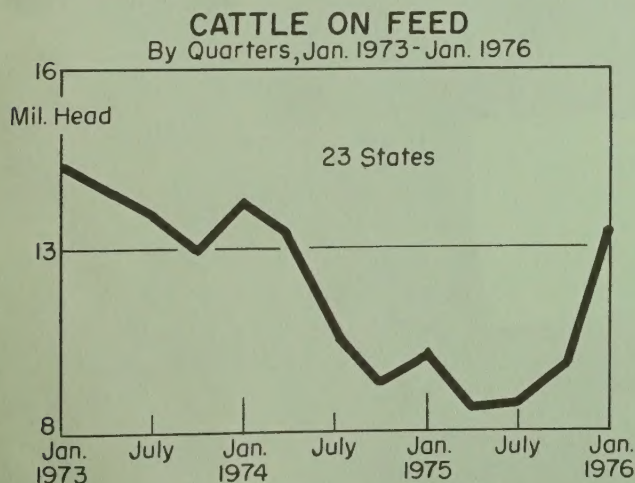
Area	Number			Liveweight	
	November		Change from last year	November	
	1974	1975		1974	1975
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
<b>Cattle</b>					
Wisconsin . . . . .	118.0	129.0	+ 9	127.0	135.3
United States 1/ . .	3,277.8	3,471.2	+ 6	3,306.4	3,420.1
<b>Calves</b>					
Wisconsin . . . . .	27.5	33.5	+ 22	3.7	4.4
United States 1/ . .	323.5	476.4	+ 47	84.0	137.3
<b>Hogs</b>					
Wisconsin . . . . .	299.0	259.0	- 13	73.0	64.2
United States 1/ . .	6,789.5	5,339.2	- 21	1,657.3	1,310.7
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.5	.4	- 20	.047	.037
United States 1/ . .	636.8	536.4	- 16	66.2	57.9

1/Excludes Alaska.

#### CATTLE ON FEED UP 28 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states on January 1 were up 28 percent from the low level of a year earlier but 6 percent below two years ago. Wisconsin cattle feeders had 136,000 head on feed January 1, an increase of 1,000 from that date last year but the same as on January 1, 1974.

Texas, the largest cattle feeding state, had 42 percent more cattle on feed January 1 than a year ago. Iowa showed a gain of 28 percent, Kansas was up 46 percent, and Nebraska increased 20 percent.



Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 23 states during the past quarter were 27 percent greater than in October-December 1974. Wisconsin placements were up 5 percent.

Marketings of fed cattle in the 23 states during the last quarter of 1975 were 11 percent under the comparable quarter a year earlier. Wisconsin marketings for October-December were down 5 percent from the previous year.

Cattle feeders in the 23 states expect to market 12 percent more cattle during the first quarter of this year than a year ago. Expected marketings in Wisconsin during January-March 1976 could be up 6 percent from that period in 1975.

#### Cattle and Calves on Feed by Quarters January 1, 1976 with Comparisons 1/

State	Jan. 1, 1974	Jan. 1, 1975	Oct. 1, 1975	Jan. 1, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 head				Percent
Arizona . . . . .	609	319	397	510	+ 60
California . . . . .	1,209	688	876	956	+ 39
Colorado . . . . .	930	755	735	925	+ 23
Idaho . . . . .	172	185	178	203	+ 10
Illinois . . . . .	530	500	420	630	+ 26
Indiana . . . . .	263	250	180	285	+ 14
Iowa . . . . .	1,715	1,200	950	1,530	+ 28
Kansas . . . . .	1,160	920	1,150	1,340	+ 46
Michigan . . . . .	220	200	147	210	+ 5
Minnesota . . . . .	464	380	290	430	+ 13
Missouri . . . . .	250	200	175	260	+ 30
Montana . . . . .	122	79	44	80	+ 1
Nebraska . . . . .	1,525	1,160	1,060	1,390	+ 20
New Mexico . . . . .	232	135	130	185	+ 37
North Dakota . . . . .	49	36	20	36	n. c.
Ohio . . . . .	280	290	175	320	+ 10
Oklahoma . . . . .	292	232	239	286	+ 23
Oregon . . . . .	77	65	65	79	+ 22
Pennsylvania . . . . .	86	83	60	90	+ 8
South Dakota . . . . .	381	345	265	365	+ 6
Texas . . . . .	2,205	1,327	1,488	1,882	+ 42
Washington . . . . .	160	135	161	168	+ 24
Wisconsin . . . . .	136	135	96	136	+ 1
23 States . . . . .	13,067	9,619	9,301	12,296	+ 28

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.

#### STEER PRICES LOWER

Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City declined during December. Steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$39.60 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in December, down 58 cents from a month earlier but \$5.65 above December 1974.

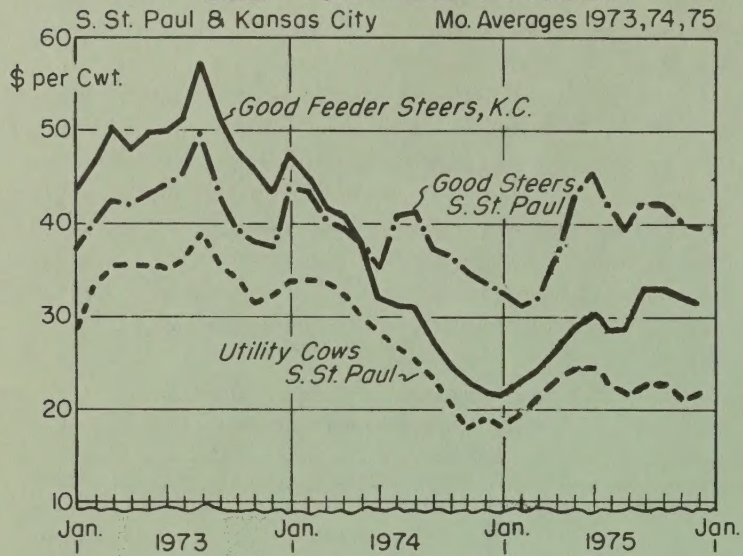
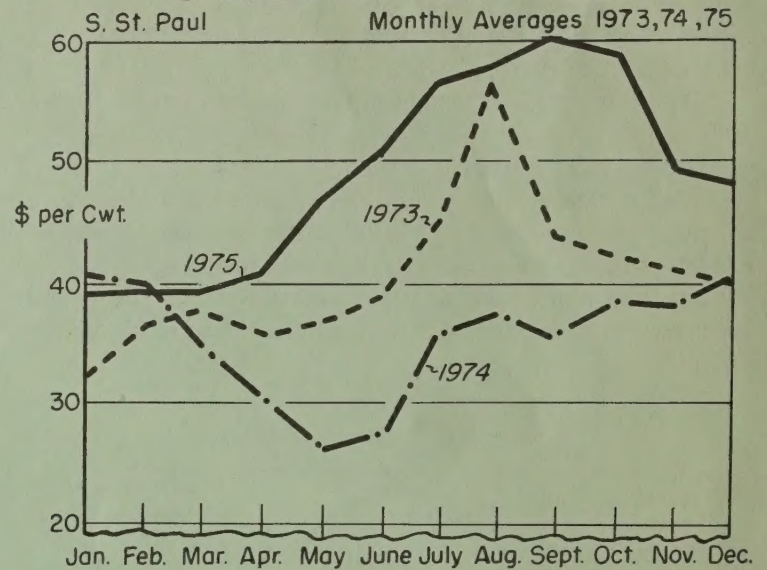
Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$31.75 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market for December. This was 39 cents under the previous month but \$9.61 higher than a year earlier.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$22.10 a hundredweight in December, up 67 cents from November and \$3.14 above the previous year.

#### HOG MARKET DOWN

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$48.16 a hundredweight for December, down \$1.16 from November and the third consecutive month of lower hog prices. However, barrows and gilts were \$8.10 above December 1974.



**BEEF CATTLE PRICES****BARROW and GILT PRICES**

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